

# NORTHERN LIGHTS

*Illuminating our communities  
through leadership and service...*

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

  
girl scouts  
of northern illinois

## A Gift From the Heart

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 244 is already learning what it means to make the world a better place. The girls recently helped another little girl's dreams come true! In March, the troop received its Girl Scout Cookie Program proceeds. They had worked hard to sell 2,271 boxes of cookies and received \$1,500 in troop funds.

When the girls decided to use part of their proceeds towards a service project, girls, parents, and troop leaders searched out ideas. "We wanted a project the girls could actually see happen," said Troop Leader Dawn Guyer. Eventually, the girls learned of a little girl, Teagan, who has medulloblastoma, a form of brain cancer. Teagan needed a walking aid that included a safety harness and four padded bars, allowing her to stand and move by herself. This special walker cost \$600, all of which the troop donated to help Teagan be able to achieve her dream of playing and walking outside.

The girls first met Teagan during a troop activity at Color Me Mine in Crystal Lake. They presented her with the walker on April 15. "The girls put streamers on the walker and made signs for Teagan," said Guyer. "They were so excited!"



*Part of what makes this wonderful donation possible is that the Girl Scout Cookie Program is one of few youth-oriented programs in the country providing participants the ability to decide how to direct the proceeds generated through their business activity.*

  
girl scouts  
1912-2012

***"Come right over! I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!"***

- Juliette Gordon Low to her cousin Nina Anderson Pape, March 12, 1912

We're celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting! During our anniversary year we will embrace the nation with hundreds of local, regional, and national events where Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and local councils will showcase the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. GSUSA has several centennial events that are in the planning stages right now:

***52 National Council Session, Year of the Girl, State of Girls Preview, Alumnae Study, Alumnae Profiles, Girl Scouts Forever Green, Blogger Day, Troop 2012, Congressional Advocacy Day, Girls World Forum, State of Girls Summit, Campaign for Girls***

GSUSA is kicking off the 100th Anniversary at the 52 National Council Session—*Renewing the Promise: Girl Scouts in a New Century*. The 2011 event will be held in

Houston, November 10-13. The convention presents an opportunity to join the nearly 1,500 council delegates and visitors from across the country who are gathering together to celebrate and usher in a new century of Girl Scouting. Of course as GSUSA's major governance meeting, official business will also be a part of the proceedings—election of national Board and Committee members, a vote on proposals impacting the future of our Movement and more.

Watch for more information on these landmark events—to find out more about the 52 National Council Session, visit [www.girlscouts.org/convention](http://www.girlscouts.org/convention).

See page 14 for a sneak preview of what centennial events will be happening in GSNL.

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# Courage, Confidence and Character

## Community Service

*Girl Scout Brownie Troop 595 partnered with Troops 946 and 324 to create fleece blankets for Faith Acres Foundation in McHenry.*



*North Aurora Girl Scout Junior Troop 4689 spent last year completing their Agent of Change journey book. For their service project, the girls donated 32 Build-A-Bear stuffed animals to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Chicago.*

*While working on their Sewing badge, Girl Scout Junior Troop 1012 made 150 stuffed creatures—named "Funkies" by the girls—and donated them to a children's hospital for Valentine's Day.*

*Girl Scout Brownie Troops 5304 and 5093 participated in a project for the Holocaust Museum in Skokie. The museum requested help in creating butterflies to hang in the museum. The girls added their butterflies to the display. Each butterfly represents a child who died in the Holocaust.*



## Girls Combine Service and Fun!

*Girl Scouts in Whiteside Service Unit held a family Christmas party in December. The 60 girls who attended learned the importance of giving when they brought in donations for the Fulton Food Pantry. Prior to the event, girls and families decorated Heritage Canyon for the party and Fulton's Christmas Walk.*



*Girl Scouts in Ojibwa Service Unit held a Cookie Kick-Off/Skating Party at Xtreme Wheels in Crystal Lake. The 185 girls in attendance brought more than 200 toys to donate to the Salvation Army Toy Drive for McHenry County.*

*Ferson Creek's 2011 World Thinking Day celebration was held at the school. Each troop chose a country to represent. The girls are responsible for researching their chosen country and sharing an ethnic activity from their country. The event concluded with an International Feast where they tasted a food from each country and collected donations of food for Hosanna's Community Care Pantry—an emergency food pantry serving local individuals and families.*



# and Making the World a Better Place

## Girl Scouts in Northern Illinois Come Together in Support of their Sisters in Japan!

Girl Scout Cadette Troop 4339 from Aurora wants to send out a thank you to everyone for all the baking and hard work put into their bake sale. "It was great to see our community come together to help raise funds for a country that needs help!" The girls donated \$512 to Girl Scouts of Japan Relief Fund.

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 4423 and Junior Troop 4566 held their Girl Scout Cookie Booth at Ace Hardware in Aurora. They asked their customers to help them in their efforts to support the Girl Scouts of Japan Relief Fund. Donating their cookie proceeds and cash donations received, the girls raised over \$275. The girls donated the eight boxes of Girl Scout Cookies left over from their booth sale to Green Harvest, their local food pantry.



Cary Junior Troop 1347 received lots of publicity this March when a thief stole over \$400 of their Girl Scout Cookie Booth proceeds. The girls had planned to use this year's proceeds for a rock-climbing trip in Bloomington. What began as a negative experience quickly turned positive as the community came together in support of these girls by donating over and above the amount stolen. It didn't take long for the girls to agree unanimously to send the donations over and above the lost proceeds to help their sister Girl Scouts in Japan. At GSNI's annual meeting in April, the girls accepted a check for \$2,705 for the Girl Scouts of Japan Relief Effort.

Coming Soon—Girl Scout Community Service page on the website!

If your troop or service unit has participated in a service project, please send your information and JPEG photos to [vknappp@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:vknappp@girlscoutsni.org).

  
**girl scouts**  
1912-2012  
forever green

The 100th Anniversary Girl Scouts Forever Green Take-Action project honors founder Juliette Gordon Low's love of nature and the outdoors. Girl Scouts across the country will lead their families, schools, and communities in protecting our national resources

by reducing plastic waste, participating in Earth Hour, building rain gardens, or developing a project of their own design. This nationwide trifecta of Take-Action projects offers a meaningful leadership experience that positively impacts the environment and increases visibility of Girl Scouts' commitment to environmental stewardship.

GSUSA will be showcasing these Take-Action projects at its 52 National Council Session and Convention. Take-Action activities that are currently under consideration include:

- Reduce plastic waste**—distribution of reusable water bottles and bags
- Earth Hour**—energy-saving tips and/or symbolic "earth hour" action
- Rain gardens**—educational rain garden exhibit

From time to time, the Executive Committee of Girl Scouts of the USA suspends the policy restricting girls' involvement in direct fundraising for outside organizations. This allowed girls to come together and support communities affected by the Tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Most recently, they lifted the fundraising ban with the catastrophic earthquake in Japan and the devastating tornados in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi and in many parts of the Midwest.

Our Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and their sisters across the country have rallied in support of the victims of these natural disasters. GSNI and GSUSA would like to express our gratitude to the volunteers and girls who strive to make our world a better place.

## Bling Your Booth First-Place Winner Photos



### Elgin Service Area—

First Place, Troop 227  
Second Place, Troop 803  
Third Place, Troop 840

### Freeport Service Area—

First Place, Troop 5147  
Second Place, Troop 5124  
Third Place, Troop 5003

### Rockford Service Area—

First Place, Troop 3147  
Second Place, Troop 3203  
Third Place, Troop 3232

### Sugar Grove Service Area—

First Place, Troop 4137  
Second Place, Troop 4195  
Third Place, Troop 4849

See more **Bling Your Booth** contestants on GSNi's scrapbook!

## GSNI PROGRAM

### GS Cookie Program Wrap-Up

Our Girl Scout Cookie Program for 2011 has ended. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a great success—Thank you to the girls who braved the cold and snow and wind and rain and also the volunteers and parents who were right there with them! Thank you to the volunteers who have done so much and put in so many hours! Thank you to all who bought our cookies supporting the girls of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois!

We have had so many great success stories throughout this cookie season—

- Girls learned about people skills, decision making, money management, goal setting, and business ethics, all while having loads of fun!
- Many service units, troops and Juliettes set goals and surpassed them.
- Our Gift of Caring Program flourished once again.
- Customers have commented about the great Cookie Booths the troops created with lots of bling which made them smile and brightened their day.

It has been a great 2011 cookie season!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP SELLER:



**Bianca Huerta**  
**Girl Scout Junior**  
**1,100 boxes even!**  
**Troop 797 in Osceola**



*"My daughters, being exuberant Girl Scouts, decided to set their goal to sell 1,000 boxes of cookies. No matter what I could do to discourage them from this goal, they were determined. At one point, Gabrielle told me, 'Mom, you don't know unless you try and you lose already if you never try.' That was hard to argue with. Gabrielle and Eva combed their siblings' basketball games, wrestling meets, volleyball tournaments, family parties, company parties, etc., looking for orders. They spent hours on the phone and sending e-mails to friends and relatives.*

*At one point, I talked to Gabrielle about the idea of the donated cookies. She liked very much that she could send cookies to soliders. She made this part of her sales pitch from then on. At that point, the orders began to pour in. She got cookies for soliders from people in 15 different states and 2 other countries. People forwarded her e-mail to friends and before you know it, the two of them had collected orders for 1,119 boxes of cookies!!! 574 boxes were donations."*

Maureen Carpenter  
Daisy Troop #434

### Rock Your Ride Winner Photo



*During the first week of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls were encouraged to decorate the family car to promote the GS Cookies. The top 5 were shared on Facebook—the most "liked" was selected as our winner.*

*Our Rock Your Ride winner received a free resident camp session from GSNi. First-place Bling Your Booth winners received a free one-night stay at one of GSNi's troop camping sites. Congratulations to all of our winners! Have fun at camp.*

## It's Your Story-Tell It! Journey Series

*It's Your Story -Tell It!*, the latest Girl Scout leadership journey series, offers a fun and comprehensive approach to building girls' leadership. Through storytelling and creative expression, girls gain a better understanding of themselves and their potential, and develop confidence to become leaders in their own lives and in the world.

This journey helps girls develop practical life skills around healthy living. Activities get girls moving and thinking in creative and physically challenging ways, through role-play activities, age-appropriate social situations, and through recipes, general health, and well-being discussions. In fact, research from the Girl Scout Research Institute shows girls do not distinguish between physical, social, and emotional health but see them as interrelated. (From *The New Normal, What Girls Say About Healthy Living*, GSRI 2006, [http://www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/healthy\\_living/healthy\\_living.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/healthy_living/healthy_living.asp))

At every grade-level, *It's Your Story-Tell It!* works to help girls develop critical thinking and media literacy skills. Activities and discussions center on girls examining the media's portrayal of girls and women.

The *It's Your Story -Tell It!* leadership journey series is available at the five area council shops and online at [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org). Check out the other two journeys on our website ([www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org)), *It's Your World-Change It!* and *It's Your Planet-Love It!*

To find out more about *It's Your Story-Tell It!* and get a preview of the activities and awards in this journey, visit the micro-site at [www.girlscouts.org/itsyourstory](http://www.girlscouts.org/itsyourstory).



## It's Your Story-Tell It! Open House Success

In January 2011, over 100 girls and adults attended the six *It's Your Story-Tell It!* open houses hosted by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. The response was extremely positive!

GSNI Program Specialist Brooke Radford coordinated the open houses and notes, "There were a lot of volunteers who said they didn't really know about the leadership journey series but wanted to learn more about it. By the end, all of them said they were excited to present the journey series opportunities to their troops!"

Older Girl Scouts who attended the open houses especially appreciated learning about the Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador journey series designed to jump-start Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award projects.

Staff from community nature centers and conservation districts also attended the open houses to learn how to apply the journey series to the programs they offer.



Thanks to a grant from the Fox Valley United Way, girls from the Fox Valley United Way service area are invited to attend the *It's Your Planet - Love It!* series Monday, June 13 through Friday, June 17, 2011, at the Sugar Grove Community House. Girls in grades 4-5 will become energized as they *Get Moving!* exploring their own energy, the energy of their places and spaces, and

the energy of getting from here to there. Girls in grades 6-8 will *Breathe*, as they explore the air that is around them, learn a lot of air-clearing strategies, including how to improve their personal air space and finding the breathing room necessary to be leaders who make the most of their special flair.



## The New Girl Scout Program Portfolio

In September 2011, Girl Scouts of the USA will be introducing The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting and the new badge requirements. These pieces, along with the three leadership journeys, form one nationally-consistent Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This leadership experience engages girls in **Discovering** themselves and their values, **Connecting** with other girls, their communities, and globally, and **Taking Action** to make the world a better place. This program model is unique to Girl Scouts and begins with a definition of leadership that girls understand and believe in—a leader, girls say, is defined not only by the qualities and skills one has, but also by how those qualities and skills are used to make a difference in the world. For more on the transition to one national experience, see the updates on the Leaders' page of our website under Girl Scout Leadership Experience Transition Updates.

In 2010-2011, Girl Scout Emissaries represented Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois at:

Girl Scouts Forever events  
GSNI Annual Meeting  
NIU STEMfest  
Rockford Airfest Flag Ceremony  
Sustainability Summit  
Thin Mint Sprint  
United For Youth Presentations  
Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony  
Victory Lap Brunch

Emissaries also delivered Girl Scout Cookie press kits to various media outlets resulting in many interviews and photo opportunities to promote the Girl Scout Cookie Program!



Winter photo shoot thanks to Laura Krause Photography

## Girl Scout Emissaries Have Fun and Learn Valuable Skills!

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will host two summer Casting Calls for girls interested in joining the 2011-12 Girl Scout Emissary Network! The Emissary Network consists of Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors, from all areas of the council, trained in public speaking and poise, and on call for Girl Scout media and networking opportunities! Current GS Emissaries are also invited to share their experience.

individual and group interviews in front of a panel. All interested girls will be invited to complete the application and return for consideration.

Saturday, July 23, 1-3 P.M.  
Rockford Service Center  
2101 Auburn St., Rockford

Saturday, August 13, 1-3 P.M.  
Elgin Service Center  
12N124 Coombs Rd., Elgin

At the casting calls, girls and parents will learn about upcoming opportunities with the network, participate in photo and video sessions, and complete

To register for a Casting Call, please contact, Ann-Marie Soderstrom, Public Relations Manager, at 815-962-5591, Ext. 7172, or [asoderstrom@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:asoderstrom@girlscoutsni.org).

## FIRST Lego League Teams

A grant funded by Motorola and awarded by GSUSA, allowed GSNI to have four teams participate in the 2010 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Season: two FIRST Lego League (FLL) Teams consisting of girls in grades 4-8 and two FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Teams made up of high-school aged girls.



motorola  
foundation

In December, the Mississippi Pearls competed as a Rookie Team at their regional tournament in Rockford. The team's robot performed well on the table and the girls worked well together as a team. Meghan F., Paige G., Ashley H., Jessica M., Molly N., Vitoria S., Ryan T., Haley W., and Brittany W. were led by coaches Dean Skinner and Sue Miller.

Team BODPADO, an acronym of the first letters of the girls' last names, competed at the regional level at McHenry Community College in December where they earned the Table Performance Award. Team BODPADO was chosen to advance to the State Tournament in January where they competed alongside 65 teams. They were chosen as Rookie Team of the Year for the State of Illinois. Congratulations to Team BODPADO's coaches Michelle O. and Cindy D. and Girl Scouts Isabel B., Jacqueline O., Ashley D., Emily P., Holly A., Lindsay D., and Katherine O.

Both FTC Teams were made up of girls from the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora. FTC Teams participate in a new game each year--this year's game was called *Get Over It!*, requiring each team to design, build, test and program

autonomous and driver-operated robots that must perform a series of tasks. Their tournament features alliances comprised of two unrelated teams who work together to compete against another alliance on the 12' x 12' playing field as they complete the required tasks competing for points. These alliances work together to overcome obstacles and meet challenges while learning and interacting with one another and their adult mentors. Their tournament was held at ITT in Chicago, in December. From a field of 29 teams, The Silver Bullets and Mad Hatters, both Rookie Teams, finished 15th and 19th respectively.

**Congratulations to the  
Mississippi Pearls, Team BODPADO,  
The Silver Bullets and Mad Hatters  
for a successful rookie season!**

**For more information on upcoming teams now  
forming, call Pam Schnecke, at Ext. 7140**

## Join Us For Summer Fun at GSNI Camp

Summer is almost here and that means it's time for camping! Camps Dean, Far Horizons, and McCormick offer girls the opportunity to explore the environment while having fun in the sun and making new friends. Our camps give girls the chance to build courage, confidence, and character. For more information on GSNI camp sessions, please contact Felecia Dupczak, camp pathway specialist, at [fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org) or Ext. 7161.



Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois has four great ways to camp this summer.

**Resident Camp**—There is a camp for everyone! Camps Dean, Far Horizons, and McCormick have a variety of sessions ranging from 3 days/2 nights to 13 days/12 nights. Session topics include horses, canoeing and kayaking, leadership, art, and high adventure. We even have family camp weekend sessions—Girls Weekend (Camp Dean) and Special Guy (Camp McCormick).

**Camp Dean Day Camp**—Not ready for overnight camp yet? No problem! Campers will have the opportunity to participate in all the camp activities during the day, but go home in the evening. Camp Dean has four 5-day (Monday-Friday) sessions with optional Thursday overnights to introduce the camping experience to newer campers. New this year, Camp Dean Day Camp Bonanza—five 3-day (Wednesday-Friday) sessions July 6-8. Sessions to choose from: Art, Horses, Survivor, Water Fun, and Weird Science.

**Volunteer-Led Day/Twilight Camps**—We have several volunteer led day/twilight camps throughout the council to choose from this summer. Check the Summer Program Booklet



and your service unit for more information.

**Troop Trek**—Troop Trek is a council-sponsored troop camping experience designed for Girl Scout Brownie and Junior troops embarking on their first camping adventure. Many troops have so much fun they come back a second and third time! At Troop Trek, a core staff of program aides and adult volunteers are on hand to assist troops with camping skills and lead a variety of theme-based program activities. This year's theme—*Back to the Basics*—will focus on the basics of Girl Scouting, outdoor exploration, the history of Girl Scouts, and of course, making new friends. As we count down to our 100th birthday, grab your troop, sleeping bag and sunscreen and experience Troop Trek 2011!

**We are always looking for more program aides and adult volunteers to help make the Troop Trek program a success. If you are interested, please contact Felecia Dupczak at Ext. 7161 or [fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org).**



Summer Program Booklet: By now all girl members should have received the Summer Program Booklet. This booklet, along with the Summer Camp Guide mailed in January, outlines the exciting council-sponsored opportunities in Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. Both of these publications can also be found on our website. Check them out for opportunities such as biking, horseback riding, kayaking, science exploration, journey connections and more!

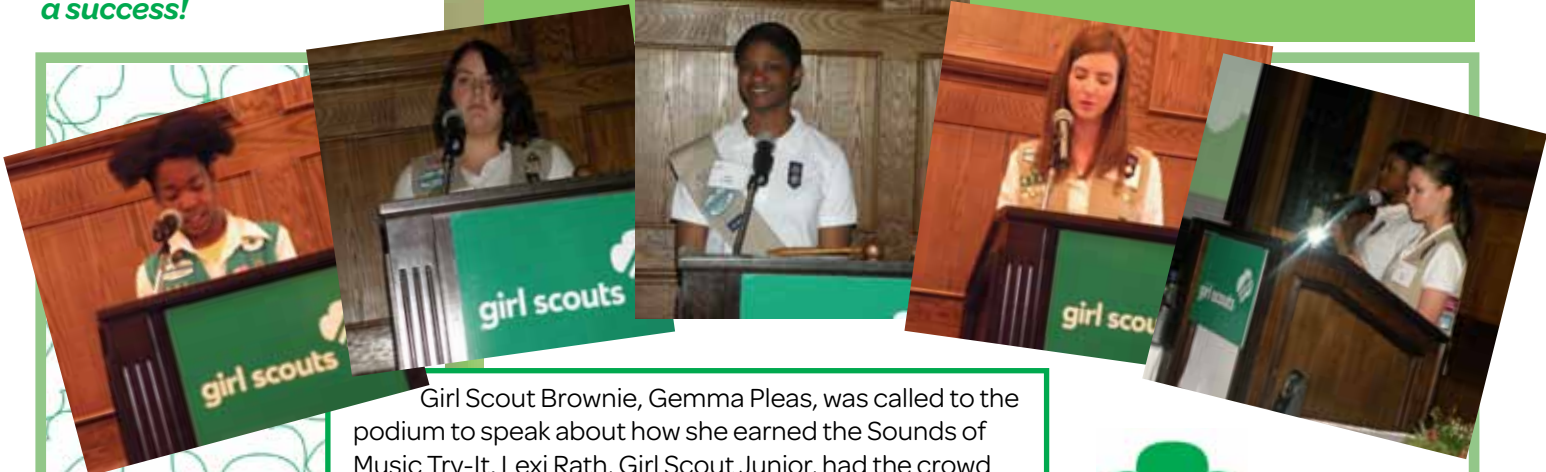


We're excited to offer on-line re-registration for troops for Spring Registration! Leaders will be able to update information for their troops easily and will be prepared to greet the new membership year online and on time for the first time with GSNI. If you require assistance or have questions, please contact the Registration Help Desk at 847-741-5521, Ext. 7110, [registration@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:registration@girlscoutsni.org) or by fax to 847-264-5554.

**A special thanks to all the girls, Board members, and volunteers who helped make the 2011 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Event a success!**

## **GSNI Girls Share at Annual Meeting**

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) hosted its second annual meeting on Saturday, April 16, at Forest Hills Country Club in Rockford, Illinois. Between the business of approving a change to the GSNI By-Laws, the state of the council, and election of the nominee slate, Girl Scouts were present to bring us back to what it's all about . . . the girls!



Girl Scout Brownie, Gemma Pleas, was called to the podium to speak about how she earned the Sounds of Music Try-It. Lexi Rath, Girl Scout Junior, had the crowd in stitches as she spoke about her troop's "Dirty Ocean" service project and how much she admires her mom, Troop Leader Mari Kaye Rath, even if she does do a "Girl Scout Cookie dance" to get the girls motivated!



Whitley Pleas, Girl Scout Junior, took to the stage to talk about how her camping experience at Camp Dean helped fulfill the Girl Scout Promise to "be a sister to every Girl Scout."

Girl Scout Cadette, Lindsay Schwartz, and Girl Scout Junior, Maya Berrelez, helped call the meeting to order with stories of their Girl Scouting experiences. Maya shared how troop camping at Eagle Cave made her more confident, while Lindsay spoke about earning her Leadership in Action Award through the Girl Scout journey book *Breathe*.

Girl Scout Ambassador, Jordon Otto, came to the stage and discussed her Girl Scout Gold Award Project of painting murals at a Head-Start daycare center inside a local church.

To help inspire the newly elected GSNI Board members, Girl Scout Ambassador, Adele Kuforiji, and Helen King, Girl Scout Cadette, spoke about how Girl Scouts has challenged them. Adele talked about Girl Scout engineering workshops and how she enjoyed them so much that she became a mentor in the program! Helen shared her experience at the same workshops and how she has now decided to pursue a career in architecture or green technologies!

**See page 13 for list of elected officials.**



A flag ceremony and inspiring performance of *You're a Grand Old Flag* was given by Girl Scout Daisy Troop 3127, Brownie Troop 3231, Junior Troop 3380, Cadette Troop 3079, Senior Troop 3334, and Ambassador Troops 3329 and 3041.

# Volunteer Recognition Highlights

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois volunteers, family, friends gathered to honor adult award recipients at the 2011 Volunteer Recognition event on April 16. Awards presented include the Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge, Thanks II Badge, and President's Award.



## The Appreciation Pin

2011 Appreciation Pin recipients are Lindsay Alton, Kristen Alvarez, Sharon Berott, Tammy Bowers, Georgetta Chavers, Marcy Cibu, Sherri Culloton, Carol Lee Duffin, Peggy Gale, Malinda Gonzalez, Ruth Gonzalez, Kelly Harkins, Cathy Johnston, Kelly Kading, John Kovanda, Evelina Kramer, Carolyn Krich, Ann Limegrover, Ian McCleary, Rebecca Miller, Kris Noonan, Michelle O'Connor, Kate Ramsay, MariKaye Rath, Tammie Scheurich, Dean Skinner, Pam Umekubo, Michelle VanAken, Gzime Xheka-Yoder, and Janet Zelek.

## The Honor Pin

2011 Honor Pin recipients are Kristen Campbell, Annette Happ, Barb Lutz, and Amy Suarez.

## The Thanks Badge

2011 Thanks Badge recipients are Mark Ackerman, Kristina Johnson, and Scott McCleary.

## The Thanks Badge II

2011 recipients of the Thanks II Badge are Barbara Herrera-Snow and Kelly McCleary.

## The President's Award

2011 President's Award recipients are the Vega Service Unit and the "Cookie Summit" Team.



**Outstanding Volunteer and Outstanding Leader Awards were also presented at local service unit gatherings. For more on these volunteer awards and a list of Outstanding Volunteer and Leader recipients, please visit our website at [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org).**

## Donors Make It Possible Rockford Service Center to Move Fall 2012

The Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Rockford Service Center has a new home! United for Youth, a non-profit corporation created in 2007 to raise capital funds for a joint Girl Scout and Boy Scout program and service center, has purchased a building at 2820 McFarland Road in Rockford (close to Perryville and Spring Creek Roads) to be the future home of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Rockford Service Center and Boy Scouts Blackhawk Area Council. The building (pictured) will serve as a joint service center and house the Girl Scout and Boy Scout shops. Interior building renovations will begin immediately with the goal of occupancy by early fall.

The initial plan was to raise \$4.5 million to build a single, multi-purpose building for administrative offices and program services on six acres of land donated by Dr. Armer Swanson and his family across from CherryVale Mall off I-90 and Hwy. 20; however, this

opportunity was too good to pass. "The decision to purchase an existing building to house the Boy Scout and Girl Scout administrative offices and build a new facility to house the organizations' programming activities embody the values of two words—fiscal responsibility," said Vicki Wright, CEO. "The purchase of the McFarland Road building allows us to reduce our capital campaign goal from \$4.5 million to \$3.5 million."

Next in the plan: to raise the last \$1 million so that we can build a 6,000-square-foot program and training facility for our combined 40,000 Boy and Girl Scouts and more than 10,000 adult volunteers on the Swanson Hill property near the Cherryvale Mall. The architecture plans for this building must be developed and the funds raised before any construction can begin.



### How You Can Help

Girl Scouts troops and Boy Scout units are encouraged to assist the campaign by participating in Lend a CAN, a 7-month aluminum can collection to raise funds while providing an eco-friendly service project to our communities. Recycling partner, Joseph Behr & Sons is helping to identify aluminum collection sites throughout the Girl Scout and Boy Scout 18-county joint service area. The Lend a CAN collection will run June–December. In addition, a request for support is forthcoming including an opportunity to purchase engraved bricks which will pave the path to the flag pole and fire circle at the program center. Questions may be directed to [lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org).



**Save the Date!**  
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 2011**

**Joseph Behr & Sons 7th Annual Thin Mint Sprint**



**Participate & Earn This Patch!**  
**Camp McCormick/Stillman Valley, IL**  
Join us on Facebook at: "Thin Mint Sprint Event—GSNI"  
More details on [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org)

### Coming Soon—Thin Mint Sprint

Mark your calendar for the 2011 Thin Mint Sprint which will take place on September 10, 2011, at camp McCormick in Stillman Valley, Illinois. The 7th annual Thin Mint Sprint is open to all ages and skill levels with four events to choose from:

- 1—Thin Mint Sprint 8K (5 mi.)
- 2—Tough Cookie Trail Run (approx. 4 mi.)
- 3—Family Fun Walk/Run (2 mi.)
- 4—Do the Double (Combo of 1 & 2) Approx. 9 mi.

Please register for any event online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer at the event, please contact Jen Davie at Ext. 7184.

**We're very pleased to announce our title sponsor as  
Joseph Behr & Sons!**

## Partners

### Exciting Partnership with Sports Authority

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is proud to have Sports Authority as an official corporate partner for the 2010-2011 membership year. Sports Authority operates over 450 Sporting Goods stores in 45 U.S. states and has a long history, dating back almost a century, of being a national leader in providing a wide assortment of quality, brand-name sporting goods. This partnership has significant benefits for our members and volunteers, including:

- All members can receive a reusable discount card, good for 10% off their entire purchase every time they shop at Sports Authority stores.
- Sports Authority will hold a designated weekend shopping event on May 28-29, at which GSNi members, friends, and family will receive 20% off their purchases by using the coupon found on GSNi's website. They will hold another of these shopping events during the back to school season or 2011 holiday season.
- Access to other special promotions, via the website and social media.

With summer just around the corner, we encourage all of our members to support our corporate partner. Shop at Sports Authority stores over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28 with the coupon found on GSNi's website. Now is a great time to stock up on summer sports apparel, camping supplies, and outdoor recreation gear.

Sports Authority has retail stores located in Aurora, Crystal Lake (2), Geneva, and Hoffman Estates, as well as many other locations near our service center boundaries. Visit [www.stores.sportsauthority.com](http://www.stores.sportsauthority.com) for additional locations.

301 S Route 59, Aurora, IL 60504, 630- 820-2009  
6000 NW Hwy, Ste. 25, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, 815-459-5009  
4804 Cog Cir, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, 815-788-1071  
1777 S Randall Rd, Geneva, IL 60134, 630-208-4998  
4700 Hoffman Blvd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192, 847-645-9241

10% Discount cards are available at each of the GSNi retail shops, or you can get yours by contacting Emily Keilback at 815-962-5591, Ext.7216 or [ekeilback@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:ekeilback@girlscoutsni.org). More information about Sports Authority and their brands and products can be found at [www.sportsauthority.com](http://www.sportsauthority.com).



## Planned-Giving Corner Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois

Jeffrey Schmidt, GSNi Board Member

Over the last 100 years so much has changed. Horses have given way to automobiles, steamboats to jet planes, medical advancements, and the industrial & technological revolutions are a few things that are different from 1911. All these improvements, and more, have had a positive impact on our lives making us a richer society.

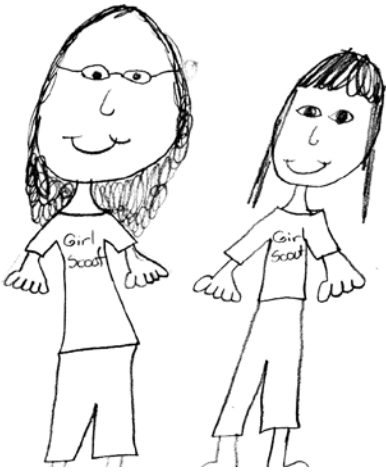
Throughout these last 100 years, Girl Scouts has evolved as well, continuing to meet new challenges in carrying out its mission: to develop girls of Character, Confidence, and Courage. Many of today's "modern miracles" are the product of a woman who learned fundamental skills allowing her to survive, and thrive in the world through Girl Scouts.

One constant over the last 100 years is the continued support of programs designed to build a better world tomorrow. Girl Scouts provides girl-centric programs designed to provide young women a place to matriculate into adulthood. Without community support, these programs would not exist to benefit our future leaders.

Support comes in many ways; working on a committee, buying a box of cookies, or mentioning a worthy cause in a Will or Trust. Each method is effective; however the impact of a charitable gift through your estate plan is significant. Such a gift is simple to accomplish, and can have lasting effect for girls into the next century.

With the help of your attorney, a simple bequest in your Will designating "Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois" as a beneficiary or legatee of your Estate will insure your gift lives on through Girls everywhere. There are other simple ways to be a benefactor to thousands of girls with bright futures. Speak to your attorney or financial planner about which method fits your plan.

**We Need  
Girl Scout Doodlers!**



*Natalie U., Girl Scout Junior*

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is collecting small- and medium-size pen and pencil sketches or line drawings. Submitted artwork used in GSNI publications could be viewed by over 20,000 people!

Drawings of everyday objects, scenes, faces or activities can be submitted, as well as notebook doodles, various words or phrases, such as "I Lead," "camp," or "Girl Scouts," or any other fun graphics—let the creativity flow!

Artwork may be scanned and e-mailed to Vanessa Knapp at [vknapp@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:vknapp@girlscoutsni.org), or dropped off or mailed to your local service center, Attn: Vanessa Knapp. Please include Girl Scout's name, address, home phone, program level, and troop (if applicable).



**12** *Amanda K., Girl Scout Junior*

## **Girl Scout Religious Recognitions**

Congratulations to the following GSNI Girl Scouts who received religious recognitions!

### **Family of God Medal**

This recognition is earned by Girl Scout Brownies. It helps 2nd and 3rd grade girls discover the presence of God in their daily lives—as members of their family and parish.

Four Girl Scouts from St. Francis de Sales in Lake Zurich have earned their "Family of God" medals at Mass at on Saturday, March 5:

Julie Dobrow, GS Brownie Troop 841  
Maggie Kelly, GS Brownie Troop 541  
Mallory Machala, GS Brownie Troop 61  
Beth Warren, GS Brownie Troop 460

### **Live My Faith Medal**

Earned by 4th, 5th and 6th grade Girl Scouts, this recognition teaches girls how they can live the values of their Catholic faith as they serve their community and parish.

Five Girl Scouts from St. Francis de Sales in Lake Zurich have earned their "Live My Faith" medals at Mass at on Saturday, March 5:

Valerie Dobro, GS Junior Troop 946  
Kaitlin Kramer, GS Junior Troop 431  
Kirsten Mazurkiewicz, GS Junior Troop 431  
Molly Machala, GS Junior Troop 578  
Julie Warren, GS Junior Troop 431

One Girl Scout from St. Peter's Cathedral in Rockford earned her "Live My Faith" medal at Mass on February 6:

Samantha Carr, GS Juliette

### **Puella Mariae Medal**

The Puella Mariae Medal furthers devotion of Mary by emphasizing the spiritual meaning of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Two Girl Scouts from St. Francis de Sales in Lake Zurich have earned their "Puella Mariae" medals at Mass at on Saturday, March 5:

Claire Haas, GS Junior Troop 671  
Molly Kelly, GS Junior Troop 778

Have you received a Girl Scout religious award? Please send your information and photo to [vknapp@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:vknapp@girlscoutsni.org) to be included in the next Northern Lights. Include your name, Girl Scout level, troop (if applicable), date and name and location of church. Find out how you can get started on your religious award by visiting P.R.A.Y.'s website—find the link on GSNI's Home page.



## **GIRL SPOTLIGHT on**

### **Name: Morgan S., Kaskaskia Service Unit**

Morgan has been in Girl Scouts since Daisies and is currently a Girl Scout Brownie in 2nd grade. This year, she was chosen to receive a Citizenship Award through the school by her teacher in partnership with the Lions Club. One student is chosen per year for their character and attendance. Her mother Diane, credits Girl Scouts with helping her to become more outgoing, courageous and thoughtful of others. She often speaks up and puts others before herself and always wants everyone to be involved or a part of a team. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois salutes Morgan on her achievement!

#### **More about Morgan!**

##### **What is one word that best describes you?**

Thoughtful

##### **Other than Girl Scouts, what are some of your hobbies?**

I like rock collecting and horses.

##### **What is your favorite part of being a Girl Scout?**

I like helping people and having fun times.

##### **Can you share a memorable Girl Scout experience?**

I really liked camping with my friends.

##### **Who are the people you look up to?**

My parents.

##### **What is your favorite line in the Girl Scout Promise? Why?**

"... help people at all times..." Being a Girl Scout means you are known as a good person and liked better.

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on**

### **Kristina Johnson, Winnebago Service Unit**

#### **Were you a Girl Scout as a girl?**

No

#### **How long have you been a GS volunteer?**

6 years

#### **Favorite part of being a GS volunteer?**

I Coordinate the Fall Product and Cookie Sales in my service unit—not a specific troop. I've worked with a few older troops when they help to distribute the products and recognitions. For the older girls, I like to see them take charge in the co-ordination of the distribution process. For the younger girls, my happiness was to see their excitement when I delivered cookies to their booths.

#### **Who do you consider your mentors in life?**

My parents, my husband and my daughter. My parents for the life skills and lessons that I learned growing up. They gave me the attitude and discipline that I needed for work and the courage to be an independent person. My husband for being understanding no matter what I want to do and my daughter for teaching me something new everyday.

#### **Why do you believe in the Girl Scout program?**

The program teaches girls of all ages values, responsibilities and independence.

#### **If you could sum up the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in one word, what would it be?**

Exciting!!

### **GSNI Board of Directors (Officers)**

Lisa Normoyle, Chair  
Jeffrey Schmidt, 1st Vice Chair  
Scott McCleary, 2nd Vice Chair  
Dan Hawkins, Secretary  
Bob Quimby, Treasurer  
Vicki Wright, CEO

### **Directors-at-Large**

Mark Ackerman  
Steve Balogh  
Donna Bausman  
Marg Blum  
Rosario DeLeon  
Sheryl Head  
John Kovanda  
June Kubasiak  
Pamela K. Owens  
Mike Peddle  
Kate Ramsay  
Bobbie Riley  
Jean Marie Saidler  
Jim Say  
Rhonda Sunden  
Cathy Veal  
Louanne Vedra-Glisan  
Cathy Wilcox

### **Associate Girl Directors**

Aubrey Baker-Clark  
Alexandra Fleig

### **National Council Delegates**

Chris Alsip  
Aubrey Baker-Clark  
Alexandra Fleig  
Miriam Fleig  
June Kubasiak  
Lisa Normoyle  
Kate Ramsay  
Sue Reimer  
Jim Say  
Vicki Wright  
Gina Wynn  
Amy Zapata  
Mary Chris Arnesen, 1st Alternate  
Lisa Cheesman, 2nd Alternate  
Chris Peddle, 3rd Alternate  
Donnann Tritten, 4th Alternate

# More on the 100th Anniversary

## Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Centennial Celebration Events



### **Celebrate the 100th Centennial Challenge**

This challenge is for all members—to participate in as individual girls or as a troop/group.

The challenge consists of 10 sections and within each section there are 10 activities to pursue! Activities include: writing a poem about the 100th; identifying birds from the 1920 Girl Scout Handbook; standing to form the shape of “100” and taking a photo for the local paper; creating a floral arrangement using daisies; reading 100 books . . . and more! The GSNI centennial patch will be available for all who complete the challenge.

### **Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary Forever Green—Take Action Projects**

GSNI is encouraging every girl in our council to take the Forever Green Pledge and then Take Action in at least one of three major projects—Reduce Plastic Waste, Earth Hour, and/or Develop Rain Gardens.

### **Troop 2012**

Help us celebrate the first baby girl born at every hospital throughout our service area on March 12, 2012. A gift basket and lifetime membership to GSUSA will be presented.

### **Alumnae Reconnect**

Calling all adult Girl Scouts past and present! We will have alumnae gatherings at several of our camps and throughout our service area. The locations of the gatherings will depend entirely on where we have the volunteers to plan them.

### **Countdown 100**

It’s a 100-day countdown to Girl Scouts birthday and we have 100 different activities ranging from easy (good deed) to difficult (attending a service unit event). See how many you can do!

### **GSNI Centennial Event**

Join Girl Scouts from across northern Illinois in April 2012 at Northern Illinois University Convocation Center for our council-wide celebration. Watch for more details—it is sure to be an extravaganza you won’t want to miss!

### **Day Trips and Travel**

How does a trip to Juliette Gordon Low’s birthplace sound? Or, perhaps a trip to Europe in 2012? If closer to home is your style how about fun at Magic Waters or come and cheer on one of our local sports teams as they celebrate in Girl Scout green.

### **100th Anniversary Volunteer Opportunities**

As we count down to our 100th Anniversary, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois would like to invite our volunteers, alumnae and friends to help plan and implement 100th Anniversary activities. Now is the time to get involved! To sign up to help in planning and implementing any of our centennial events, please contact the committee chairs listed. If you need clarification or would like additional information feel free to contact GSNI’s 100th Anniversary Coordinator, Lisa Breitsprecker at [lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsn.org](mailto:lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsn.org).



**Lend your time and talents...**

**Alumnae Reconnect**—We want to re-engage Girl Scout Alumnae and make you part of 100th Anniversary celebration. Feel a part of our organization and get in touch with other Girl Scouts past and present. We are dreaming about bringing alumnae groups together at camps and in the community for friendship, service and fun. Is this an area you would like to see grow? Then help us brainstorm and execute some of these exciting opportunities and events for alumnae! To provide your ideas and/or become a part of the Alumnae Reconnect, contact Kelly McCleary at [disneyfreak13@aol.com](mailto:disneyfreak13@aol.com) or Bernice Corey at [snapshotmom@yahoo.com](mailto:snapshotmom@yahoo.com).



**Forever Green Community Take-Action Project**—To mark our 100th Anniversary and to honor founder Juliette Gordon Low, who loved nature and the outdoors, Girl Scouts of all ages, volunteers and alumnae are engaging in Girl Scouts Forever Green. This nationwide, take-action project offers a meaningful leadership experience that makes a huge positive impact on the environment and increases the visibility of Girl Scouts in every community. GSUSA will supply councils with information in July 2011 on the three major projects: Reduce Plastic Waste, Earth Hour, and Develop Rain Gardens. Help staff implement this unique and important Take Action Project. Contact Kay Flavin at [kflavin@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:kflavin@girlscoutsni.org). Volunteers will begin working with staff to identify and implement the Take-Action project in July 2011 and will finish in April 2012.

**Girl Scout History**—As we prepare to celebrate our centennial, we will showcase the rich history of Girl Scouting's first 100 years in traditional and innovative ways. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is planning historical exhibits in 7-8 area museums, utilizing council-owned historical materials (uniforms, sashes, berets, beanies, insignia, badges, books, photos, videos, and much more). We need your help in cataloging what we have and determining how we might share these treasures throughout our council. We are looking for volunteers with an interest in archiving and presentation including those with expertise and experience to take a leadership role in this process. We also need to determine our best options for sharing our history through area events, local troops and other groups. Contact Sue Reimer at [gshistorysuereimer@yahoo.com](mailto:gshistorysuereimer@yahoo.com) or Lisa Breitsprecker at [lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org). Work on this project is in progress and will continue through 2012. Many more volunteers and ideas are needed!



**Council-wide Event**—We're looking for inspiring suggestions to name our council-wide celebration. Become a fan of GSNI's Facebook page and submit your ideas. In Girl Scout tradition, we are planning a large-scale girl event that celebrates **Discover, Connect** and **Take Action** in centennial style. Help us plan and execute this event at Northern Illinois University Convocation Center in April 2012. Contact Miriam Fleig at [miriam.fleig@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.fleig@gmail.com) or Jessica Steinberg at [jessicasteinberg@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:jessicasteinberg@rockfordparkdistrict.org). Volunteers and staff have begun planning for this event, which will take place in April 2012. Many more hands are needed for this and other council-sponsored events!

**Year of the Girl Communications/Marketing**—Volunteers are needed to identify and execute opportunities to highlight Girl Scouts during 2012 across northern Illinois. Help create a speaker's bureau that will advance the Girl Scout brand, showcase the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, and boldly claim Girl Scouts' place as the premier leadership organization for girls. Contact Cindy Kocol at [ckocol@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:ckocol@girlscoutsni.org).



**Centennial Campaign**—It's going to take a considerable amount of funding to deliver on GSUSA's promise to girls— **Every girl in this generation will have the skills and the opportunity to reach her fullest potential.** Volunteers are needed to identify and solicit corporate, foundation and individual donors leveraging the 100th anniversary to help change the philanthropic landscape for women and girls in our council. Asking for money not your thing? Help plan and execute a fundraising event, host a small group gathering in your office or home, or sponsor one of the many 100th anniversary initiatives. Contact Lisa Breitsprecker at [lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org) for more information.

## GSNI CALENDAR

MAY 30, 2011	Service Centers closed in honor of Memorial Day
MAY 31-SEPTEMBER 2, 2011	Summer hours at GSNI Service Centers (see website for details)
JULY 4, 2011	Service Centers closed in honor of Independence Day
JULY 27, 2011	Girl Scouts Forever, Sterling
SEPTEMBER 5, 2011	Service Center closed in honor of Labor Day
SEPTEMBER 10, 2011	Thin Mint Sprint, Stillman Valley (NEW DATE)
OCTOBER 31, 2011	Juliette Low's Birthday (GS Founder)
NOVEMBER 10-13, 2011	National Council Session and 100th Anniversary Kick-Off, Houston

**Watch our website for details on August alumnae gatherings.**

*Please Note: The Daisy's Closet event in Sugar Grove has been rescheduled for October 1 at the Training Blitz at Camp Dean. Donations will be accepted at the SGSC September 15-September 30.*

### NEXT ISSUE:

YWD highlights  
Summer Camp Recap  
Gearing up for 2012 Girl Scout Cookie Program  
More on 100th Anniversary!



Elgin Service Center, 12N124 Coombs Road, Elgin, IL 60124 • 847-741-5521  
Freeport Service Center, 5040 Bus. Rt. 20 West, Freeport, IL 61032 • 815-235-8777 • 800-925-3327  
Rockford Service Center, 2101 Auburn Street, Rockford, IL 61103 • 815-962-5591 • 800-242-5591  
Sugar Grove Service Center, 200 New Bond, Sugar Grove, IL 60554 • 630-897-1565